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Gold-medal grin



BOB TYMCZYSZYN/ QMI AGENCY NIAGARA E.L. Crossley were winners of junior men's 66 kg with coxswain final at the Canadian Secondary School rowing Regatta, held in Pt. Dalhousie on the Henley rowing course last weekend, Pictured are Kevin Keith. Lynden Whitley, Noah McDonald Chris Rusic and

cox Danielle Pine.





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Rowing for gold



BOB THECTSCOW/
QM AGENCY NAGARA
Dylan Minor and Bryan
Haackman from E.L.
Crossley were winners
12 kg double at the
finals of the Canadian
Secondary School
rowing Regatta, held
in Pt. Dalhousle on the
Henley rowing course
on the weeking

BOB TYMCZYSZYM/
QMI AGENCY NUGARA
Jared Naar from E.L.
Crossley celebrates
after winning in
the finals of the
Canadian Secondary
School rowing
Regatta Sunday.



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RIDDLE: Reporter lured to park for wedding proposal

The mystery of the pink heart signs — solved!

Polham Nowe Staff

As a reporter, I pride myself on being able to get to the bottom of things. I like a good mystery, and I like it even more when I can solve it before anyone

But for once, I'm glad the secret was kept

At the end of April when signs began popping up all over Welland with big pink hearts on them, I started asking everyone I knew what they were for. They were bright. They contained no

message. They were everywhere. My curiosity was piqued. The signs quickly became the talk of the

town, and I wrote a story about how no one was willingly coming forward to claim

Now I know why. About a week ago, new signs began

appearing next to the existing ones, indicating something was going to happen at Chippawa Park on Sunday at 3 p.m. As luck would have it, or so I thought,

it was my weekend to work. I'd get to find out exactly what the creator of the mystery hearts had been planning all along. I arrived at the park, slung my camera bag over my shoulder and headed over to a pop-up tent set up near one of the park's

pavilions. Despite the rain, dozens of people came out with umbrellas in hand, all eager to satisfy the same curiosity that had been

eating away at me for weeks. Inside the tent was a man dressed in a

suit with a box over his head. A box, you ask? Yes. Complete with a

He was handing out flowers to onlookers with what I can only imagine was a smile behind his cardboard disguise. He handed one to me - a sweet, but familiar gesture - then continued passing them out to others. Then he gathered

up the remaining flowers into a bouquet. and he turned to me. He removed the disguise This was the man who I've loved for the

past eight years. Who I've built a life with. This was all for me. Ryan got down on one knee, and as I tried but failed to hold back tears, he asked

me to spend the rest of my life with him. No pressure, right? Of course I was ecstatic. Shaking, Crying

Of course I said. Yes! I was surrounded by strangers taking photos and video of our moment, but in an instant they all felt like family. Ryan

had even invited my parents and his, sworn to secrecy, to witness our special The congratulations poured in from

familiar faces and ones I've never seen When rumours of the signs' intentions first began swirling, many said it was a person looking to spread love through the community. In the end, it may have been geared toward one individual, but the love flowed through that park Sunday after-

It wasn't until everyone began clearing out that I realized I hadn't taken any pictures. I hadn't even taken out my notenad. Sure is hard to cover a story when it turns

While trying to take in everything that was happening. I knew there was an impor-

My editor was expecting a story.

It's usually hard to catch a jour-

There was a newspaper to put out.

nalist off guard, but I'd say that was

accomplished as both myself and

managing editor Dan Dakin were

the hearts meant. It's the most

impressive engagement plot I've ever heard of," he said after the

"I'm blown away that this is what

left a little bewildered.

tant phone call I had to make. "So many people from the com-

The mystery of the pink heart signs in Welland was solved Sunday when Ryan St. Denis proposed to girffriend and Tribune reporter Maryanne Firth at Chippawa Park Sunday.

knew I'd be curious. And he knew munity were questioning what the my nose for news would drive me hearts meant, so to have this turn to unearth the secret.

How he kept it from me all this time, I'll never know. What I do know is that I am one lucky girl and I owe a heartfelt thank you to everyone, especially the man in the box who made this

the most memorable day of my life. maryanne.firth@sunmedia.ca

It all boils down to the fact that Rvan St. Denis knows me better news broke. He knew I'd see the signs. He Twitter @mfirthTribune saveonergy

out the way it did is incredible.

engagement plans."

than I know myself.

"I'm sure Maryanne's fiance

has just left many women jealous

and made many men go back to

the drawing board for their own

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SUN MEDIA

Vote, but first learn, think about decision

ow is the time to start thinking about how you will vote in the upcoming provincial election, if you haven't turned your mind to your choice already.

Voting is a right and how you choose to exercise it is really up to you. If you don't want to vote, you don't have to. If you decide based on tea leaves, a gut fleeling or the perceived personality of candidates or leaders, that's your business. But you do yourself and your fellow citizens a disservice if you stay home, or if you cast your vote frivolously.

If you're fed up with the whole thing, it's arguably better to register your feeling with a spoiled ballot than to be silent — which, as the saying

goes, implies consent.

While one ballot among millions is unlikely to be the deciding factor, especially in our first-past-the-post system in which votes cast for a riding's unsuccessful candidate make no real difference in the composition of the legislature, it is still important that the collective will be measured. There are organizations of all political stripes trying to set the agenda, and if regular people don't take part, those organizations wield more power than they should.

There are plenty of people out there who urge people to vote. But casting a ballot should really be the final step in a process.

To be a truly responsible citizen, you need to make an Informed choice based on reason. Listen to what the candidates have to say, assess whether their positions are plausible, consider if they reflect what you believe and value. Weigh their records. Decide if they will be willing or able to follow through with their promises.

The same goes for political parties — what they say might sound good, but does it stand up to scrutiny from yourself and from others? Are they trying to manipulate you through fear, favour or plain old propaganda?

Now more than ever vast amounts of information is at the electorate's fingerips. But the quality of much of that information is questionable to say the least. Avoid cyncism, but read and listen critically, with an open mind. Give those outside the traditional PC-Liberal-NDP triangle a hearing — while it's unlikely they will be in power, to dismiss them out of hand stifles new power, to dismiss them out of hand stifles new control of the control of the control of the control Let's deserve a sood one.

(MI Agency

COMMENT

Italian tug caught fire in Atlantic

he 45.65-metre long Italian tug Vortice caught fire in the Atlantic and had to be abandoned by the crew near the Canary Islands 21-years ago today. The vessel was gutted in the blaze of June 12. 1993, and towed to Las Palmas. The ship was sold to McKeil Marine in 1996 and the rusted hulk was brought to Canada for repair and reconstruction. It was resold, partially repaired, to American interests in 1998 and left for Norfolk, Va., to complete the task. Renamed Norfolk, the vessel assisted in local dredging projects until resold for an unlikely return to the Great Lakes in 2005. Again rebuilt, this time at Sturgeon Bay, WI, the ship resumed service as Samuel de Champlain and now sees regular service pushing the cement barge Innovation



PHOTO BY RENE BEAUCHAMP NOV. 2,

The 45.65-metre long Italian tug Vortice caught fire in the Atlantic and gutted June 12,

Thinking about the consequences

EV. JEEVA SAM

A friend was sharing how he had taken his truck in for a routine oil change and maintenance check.
When he came home and checked the bill, he noticed that they had used 5W30

oil instead of the synthetic that had been the norm until now.

He promptly called the dealership. The woman who answered the phone heard him out and made a comment about how 5W30 would not hurt his engine. He was not amused. He asked her to pull up his vehicle's service history on the computer. She had to admit

that they had goofed up.
When he asked what they were going to do about it, she put him on hold, talked to someone (presumably the service manager) for a minute and she told him that if he could bring his truck in, they would replace the oil only, not the filter, mind you. Also, they would not charee him labour, but he would have to

Now you know why my friend is not taking his truck back to them ever again. Frankly, I was flabbergasted when I heard this and began to ask myself why the service manager would not have simply offered to replace the 5W30 with synthetic oil along with the filter, no charge. It would 've been only fair, since

pay for the oil.

it was their fault

Plus it would have generated a tremendous amount of goodwill in my friend who, rather than tell me about how pony's hey treated him, could vee dan made up for their mistake plus offered him 50% on his next oil change (hint, hint). This would've locked him offered him 50% on his next oil change (hint, hint). This would've locked him of maintenance and repairs these days, they would've gained hundreds, if not housands of dollars in business over the lifetime of the truck. Their shortprofil.

It reminded me of the time that Esau traded his birthright to his younger brother Jacob for a bowl of lentil soup (Genesis 25:29-34). Was his hunger so great that he had to forfeit something invaluable for a cheap bowl of soup? How could he have avoided this griev-

ous error in judgment? How could the dealership have done things differently? How could you, beloved reader, stay away from such mistakes? The solution is amazingly simple.

although it is not always easy to do in the heat of the moment. Here it is. Take time to think about the conse-

quences of your choice. Better still, write down the next few things that are likely to follow as a result of your decision. Had the service manager done this, his flow chart would look something like

Customer asked to pay for our mistake; Gets ticked off; Takes his business elsewhere; We potentially lose thousands of dollars over the next five to seven years; Could generate negative publicity or dishonourable mention in a

Would he still go through with his decision to charge for the synthetic oil? Not likely, eh?

In Esau's scenario, it would be something like:

I trade my birthright; Lose it forever; My future would be affected adversely; That is too high a price to pay for a lousy bowl of lentil soup; I can put up with a growling stomach till I get someone to cook me a meal.

Disaster averted. Destiny accelerated. Now it's your turn. Before you make a choice in a hurry — because you want to make a short-term profit or you want to satisfy your appetite or because your hormones are going haywire or (please fill in the blanks), would you take some

time to think about the consequences? You'll be glad you did.

Rev. Jeeva Sam pastors both United Church congregations in Wainfleet — Forks Road East and Morgan's Point. He also writes posts such as this regularly on www.destinywordoftheday.com.



www.pelhamnews.ca

COMMENT

■readers'views

CARING MAN?

When I read John Begin's comment Thursday that Tim Hudak "is a caring family man," I immediately wondered what the 100,000 families of the public-sector workers would have to say about that after Mr. Hudak fired them. DAVID FOWLER

WAINFLEET

CONSPIRACY THEORY What a coincidence. The two NHL teams playing in the Stanley Cup finals represent the two largest television markets in the U.S. Don't be surprised if the series goes seven games to boost revenue and soak the fans. The national hose league is masterful at senarating money from their fans' wallets and into the owners' and players' bank accounts. CHARLES OWEN WELLAND

PLEASE VOTE

As we approach election day, we hear "I am not going to vote." But I can never find a reason for not voting. There

ZUCCHINI

racy - when you go behind that little box with the names of the candidates in our riding on a sheet of paper. You can spoil the ballot. The buzzword this time is telling the electorate that you would like to have your vote registered as NOA (none of the above). It's another strategy by someone who has nothing to offer. You can complain about your choices or lack thereof, but maybe we should all not show up, then what would the results would be like? To those who have children, do you teach them the same thing? What sort of society do you wish to leave as a legacy? I'm proud my parents, their parents and their friends chose to vote. I still like the society I inherited from them. I would like to think my friends would like to leave a good legacy for their children and their children's friends. Do we have a democratic society? Yes. Use it wisely. It is better than the alternative, silence with no choice. We can make change happen and we will if need be. Tell a friend, family or neighbour "I am going to vote,

is only one moment of democ-

ioin me."

RON ST. LOUIS WELLAND

WYNNE WON'T TAKE RESPONSIBILITY

If you or I were to misappropriate a few dollars we would be branded as a criminal and sent to jail. What has happened to our society that we allow the Liberal government of Ontario to misappropriate a billion dollars then say, "I'm sorry and run for re-election as if it never happened? What has happened to the moral compass of the citizens of Ontario when polls show that these same Liberals may be in position to win re-election? I see the "Anyone but Hudak" campaign and can't help but wonder how can you consider voting for a Liberal government that misappropriated money to further their own political ends, wasted \$500 million on slots at race tracks, blew millions on eHealth, Ornge, OPG and OLG flascos, is going to rise your hydro bill by 46% and is preparing to put a 10-cent-alitre tax on our gas? Even if Tim Hudak does all the "had" things you say he is going to do, it wouldn't be humanly possible for him to create as many fiascos as the Liberals have created during their tenure. I was impressed that Hudak said he would step aside

if he did not deliver on his plan in two years. He is taking responsibility for his actions; Something Ms. Kathleen Wynne has not done to this day.

LAKE TEMAGAMI

Fibre is Unbelievably Good For You!

Do you know where the saying, "an apple a day keeps the doctor away" comes from? It's because an apple is made up of

good, wholesome fibre. Experts know that if you get lots of fibre in your diet, good health is sure to follow.

It's true what they say (doctors, health experts, medical researchers and most Moms), a little bit of fibre everyday can go a long way to restoring and maintaining your good health. The list of health benefits from fibre is extensive...

Fibre can help you lose weight. Getting a sufficient amount of fibre in your diet can help to reduce your caloric intake - in other words, fibre binds onto calories as they are absorbed and flushes them out before they turn into fat. And fibre is known to help lower food cravings and reduce your food consumption.

Fibre can also help to reduce your cholesterol levels. When your cholesterol levels are high. unhealthy plaque is deposited on the walls of the arteries. This can lead to an increased risk of heart disease. Soluble fibre helps to lower blood cholesterol.

In thousands of cases, overweight people have been shown to lose quite significant amounts of excess body fat simply by increasing the amount of fibre in their daily diet.

Fibre is bulky and, therefore, can be very filling. Fibre is also low in fat. Soluble fibre forms a gel that slows down the

emptying of the stomach and the transit time of food through the digestive system. This extends the time a person feels satisfied or 'full'. It also delays the absorption of sugars from the intestines.

Delaying the absorption of sugar helps to lower your overall blood sugar levels and prevent a rapid rise in blood insulin levels which has been linked to an increased risk of diabetes. And lastly, getting enough fibre in your diet will keep you regular. That's very helpful.

FibreSmart from Renew Life is a flaxseed-based 'good for you' fibre for your good health..

For more info about FibreSmart, visit Rosemary's Natural Choices

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Cocktails for Kitties aimed at feline overpopulation initiatives

QMI Agency Niagara

Four years.

Nearly 1,000 cats. If the numbers are any indication. Port Colborne Feline Initiative seems well on its way to addressing the cat overpopulation problem in the lakeside city.

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Call: 905-899-2373 Fax: 905-899-2383 tion marks its fourth annivercary this month and is inching close to its 1,000th-cat milestone, with 965 felines enrolled

in its three programs to date. Operation CatSnips assists with TNVR (trap, neuter, vaccinate, return) of feral cats. SNAP (spay/neuter assistance program) assists low-income pet owners with getting their cats spayed or neutered, and KitKat sees feral kittens fostered, socialized and ulti-

mately adopted. "We've absolutely noticed a

Besma Family Dental Centre

Dr. Rashid And Associates

PCFI founder Kristi Mallinson Vogel said while thinking back

on the past four years. The programs are clearly working

Complaint calls about cats roaming neighbourhoods have lessened at city hall and there's less buzz in the community about cats being an issue. Mallinson Vogel said.

We've definitely seen a decrease this year at our Port Colborne shelter in the number of cats that are coming in," said Tammy Gaboury,

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Welland and District Humane Society.

"There's been a real improvement in the volume of stray cats," she said, crediting

PCFI for its work. While progress has been made, the group's work is far

from over PCFI recently began a partnership with Port Colhorne's East Village action committee to help address the cat population problem in the city's east

"It's a hotspot," Mallinson

The volunteer-run group works closely with the humane society and uses the shelter's intake statistics to

belp determine Port Colborne areas most in need of attention "We're going to continue doing

what we're doing," Mallinson Vogel "If opportunity allows and fund-

ing is available, then maybe we can expand to other areas of south Nia-

The organization is on the hunt for corporate sponsors and private donors to help further its cause, but relies beavily on fundraising to continue its work

PCFI has four annual fundraisers, including Cocktails for Kitties, which is coming up on June 13 at Roselawn Centre. It also runs an ongoing bottle drive throughout the year.

"The more we can raise through events and donations, the quicker we can get the job done." Mallinson

Vogel said. It will ultimately resolve the issue. We're confident this will work.

PCFI volunteers recently began a new initiative, creating "KitKat cuddle mats" for cats at the humane society. The knit and crocheted mats are meant to reduce the stress of the cats while they're awaiting adoption. The organization is looking for

donations of bulky or chunky yarn, as well as volunteers to help create the

For more information, visit www. facebook.com/yarnkitty.

> maryanne.firth@sunmedia.ca Twitter: @mfirthTribune



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₹ RECREATION PROGRAMS & CLASSES

Zumba Classes @ Pelham Arena

Tuesday June 17 9:30 am - 10:30 am Wednesday June 18

7:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Tuesday June 17 Thursday June 19 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Drop in and try any session for \$6 or purchase your 10 + 2 bonus passes for \$60. For more information on any of the Zumba classes, please contact (905) 892-2607 ext. 329.

Walking Club - Everyone is welcome! - June 17 & 19

Interested in walking in Pelham? Interested in joining a Walking Club? Then join us! Tuesdays at Pelham Arena from 9-10 am and Thursdays at Fonthill Bandshell from 9-10:30 am. For more information, please contact (905) 892-2607 ext. 329.

Women's Outdoor Scrimmages - Pelham Arena, 10:00am - 11:30am Ages 18+

Monday, June 16 - Soccer & Tennis Ultimate Frisbee Thursday, June 19 Tennis & Ultimate Frisbee

Looking for an opportunity to get out, be active and maybe learn a new sport in a fun, social environment? Join our instructor for women's only sports sessions feature 2 sports per day. All skill levels welcome & equipment is provided. Drop in for \$6 session or purchase your 10 + 2 bonus passes for \$60. For more information, please contact (905) 892-2607 ext, 329.

Summer Programs - Aquatics & Summer Camps

Registration is now open for swimming lessons, Lifesaving Training Programs, the Pelham Penguins Swim Team and the Triathlon Club, Summer Day Camps, Playground Program, Specialty Camps; Bike Camp; Art Camp; Sports Camp; You're the Chef Camp, Registration forms are available at pelham.ca and at Town Hall.

COMMUNITY EVENTS & NEWS

Pelham Farmers' Market - May 1 until October 30 - Pelham Town Square - June 5 Market Bucks Winner: Kathie Timpano Come out and meet your local market vendors and purchase food that is fresh, high in quality and the next best thing to harvesting it yourself. Every Thursday from May 1 to October 30, 4:30pm till dusk.

Pelham Community Pool Opens for Public Swim - Saturday, June 14 at 1 pm

Fonthill Medical Centre Groundbreaking - Thursday, June 19 at 3:00pm - East Fonthill (Rice Road & Regional Road 20)

Pelham Pool House Re-Opening - Friday, June 20 at 10:00am - Marlene Stewart Streit Park (55 Park Lane, Fonthill)

Pelham Leash Free Dog Park "Unleashing" - Saturday, June 21 at 10:30am - (Regional Road 20 & Centre Street)

Communities in Bloom Garden Tour - Saturday June 21st - Tickets \$10 available at Town Hall, Vermeer's Garden Centre & Rice Road Greenhouses

Heritage Tea - Saturday, June 28 at Ridge Berry Farm Tea Room - 3 seatings: 12 pm, 1:30 pm & 3:00 pm - Hat/Fascinator Contest at each seating - Tickets \$10 available at Town Hall & Ridge Berry Farm

Pelham Summerfest 2014 - Keep an eye on our website for details on all the amazing eyents happening at Summerfest pelhamsummerfest ca.

Free (((Wi-Fi))) available @ Peace Park in Fonthill. Be sure to check it out when attending any summer events or taking a stroll through the park!

♣ MUNICIPAL ELECTION WORKERS NEEDED



The Town of Pelham is now accepting applications from interested residents for the Monday, October 27, 2014 Municipal Election, Available positions include: Poll Supervisors, Deputy Returning Officers, Affidavit Clerks, Vote Tabulator Operators, and Information Clerks/Greeters.

Applications are also being accepted for the Advanced Voting Days of Saturday, October 18, Monday, October 20, and Wednesday, October 22, Available positions include: Poll Supervisors, Deputy Returning Officers, Poll Clerks, Affidavit Clerks, Vote Tabulator Operators, and Information Clerks/Greeters.

Pick up your application form at Pelham Town Hall or download it online at www.pelham.ca and submit to Nancy J. Bozzato, Town Clerk/Returning Officer, at 20 Pelham Town Square, P. O. Box 400, Fonthill, Ontario, LOS 1E0, by July 11, 2014.

Tuxes and gowns for opening night

K. entertainment fans. mark Oct. 3 on your calendars. That's when the Meridian Centre is officially set to open with a hoffo concert

No word, yet, on what the act might be I'm thinking Pink Floyd or Led

Or, in a pinch, Iron Butterfly. In-A-Gadda-Da-Vida, indeed. Of course, that's presuming the band isn't already booked at the Golden Pheasant that night. Granted, my prediction of a eezer rock band gala Oct. 3 may

the city and arena operators SMG want to open with a bang. Hev. do you think Cirque du Soleil might be working on a special Son of Port Tower show? It would have plenty of twists, turns, giant leaps (of faith) and suspensions of dishelief. Anyway, the next night, a

IceDog home game. Not into Iron Butterfiv? And not a big hockey fan? Don't worry. There's still the possibility

of getting an up close and personal look at what \$50 million buys you these days. Nothing's etched in stone, but the city is looking at holding an open house prior to Oct. 3. similar to what the Niagara Health System did with the new St. Catharines

It may be more similar than you think if the arena tour includes viewing a room where hockey players get stitched up. But all this is a few months away.

Meantime, there's an arena to complete. I went on a tour earlier this week with city and SMG officials to get a sense of where things are at.

My conclusion? Man, this joint has a lot of concrete. Plenty of behind-the-scenes

The big news this week was the laving of 1.8 kilometres of brine lines on the ice rink floor, Next Thursday, workers will do an allday concrete pour over the pipe network. The cement is expected to take 28 days to cure, Hmm. I wonder how soon after that I can arrange the first skate ..

While plenty of finishing work needs to be done, the arena's various elements are now more visually defined. That includes office space, dressing rooms, storage areas (those 2,100 folding chairs for the arena floor have to go somewhere), concession stands, kitchen facilities, washrooms,

sports hall of fame space and lobbies. Much square footage is devoted to the IceDogs. The team will have several administrative offices, coach's office with

Saturday, the Meridian Centre hosts its first shower, weight room, whirlpool area, video room, large dressing room, players' lounge

and trainers' area among other amenities. I'm not saving it's an impressive layout, but it'll make lack Gatecliff Arena seem like it was built 75 years ago. Major fixtures still to arrive are the

\$820,000 score clock, scheduled to be installed in August or September, and the arena's seats, which will be delivered next

month. There'll be about 5,200 seats, including 650-700 retractable ones at the open end of

the arena Last time I checked, there'll be about 3,960 seats in the main U-shaped bowl, 260 club seats and 276 suite seats. As you know, the arena's 25 suites sold

like hotcakes. The latest marketing push is for the club seats. They're padded leather and are located on the same upper level as the suites. The seats are at the end where the IceDogs

shoot twice and will offer head-on views of the concert stage. They start at \$1,500 a year, a package that includes an IceDog season ticket. Seatholders will also have first dibs on concert

tickets and access to a special lounge. The Superlative Group (216-592-9400) is handling the sales. This week's tour also provided an

interesting glimpse of the two pedestrian bridges to the Meridian Centre. Neat stuff. Yeah, I know some people are grumbling about the walk involved from downtown parking lots. But it won't be that bad. Just pretend you're strolling to your community mailbox.

dherod.niagara@gmail.com





V-Strom 650





A tour of the arena as they prepare for the concrete pad pour

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PELHAM DATEBOOK

IIINF 12 PROSTATE CANCER

support group meets 7 p.m. at the Canadian Cancer Society office, 45 Hannover Dr., St. Catharines, Dr. Ian Brown is guest speaker. Men and women welcome. For more information 905-934-1685.

JUNE 18 BOOK SIGNING

Following on the heels of her book, I Did, You Can Too — Dorothy Seabourne presents stories and images from Dreams to Memoirs, a photo book highlighting the 12 European tours she has taken by motorcycle over the past 30 years. At age 73, she is making plans to tour Ireland on a "big bike" next year. Copies of the book will be for sale at the theatre at Lookout Ridge. 1505 Lookout St., Fonthill, for \$40. Starts 6:30 p.m. Register ahead by calling Pelham Public Library at 905-892-6443.

JUNE 19

STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE

served up by Fonthill Lioness at Pelham Farmers' Market, Help us to help others.

PELHAM FESTIVAL BOOK

Drop in to Pelham Public Library during this informal afternoon, Publishers include sponsor Grey Borders, Barefoot Books. The Book Band and Elbow Island Publishing. Authors Leo Audette. Marguerite Belanger, Richard Bendell, Christopher Bessette. Rusty Blackwood, Jolene Eby, Toye Chanpen Hayes, Laura Lane. Josie Penny, Janice Schramn, and Start Me Up Niagara are featured. Books for sale and signing 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Free. Part of Grey Borders' Niagara Literary Arts Festival.



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Room) from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

303 Niagara St. Call 905-732-

3969 for further information

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The popular "varn exchange" at

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SPAN

(Single Person Association of Niagara) is a social club since

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every Tuesday 6 p.m. to 8

p.m. Members get a monthly

calendar of social activities. For

further information call Lynie at

www.niagarafallsribfest.com

p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

four-part harmony at Welland

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Bob at 905-892-2336

ONGOING LOVE YOUR LIBRARY

spring gift basket silent auction fundraiser for Pelham Public Library opens bidding at 10 a.m. April 14 and ends May 2 at 4 p.m. Themed gift baskets artwork, tickets and more, Sign up for a number at the front

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE The Fonthill-Singer's Corners branch of the Women's Institute is looking for new members. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month, 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. We welcome women wishing to contribute to our community. If you would

like to enjoy the fellowship and events planned for this coming year, please call 905-892-6891 for more information. VETERANS AFFAIRS

visits Royal Canadian Legion

Branch 4 on Morningstar Ave., Welland, the first Tuesday of every even-numbered month. starting at 9 a.m. First come, first served.

ROSE CITY TOASTMASTERS

meets Thursdays, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Lower Community Room of Welland Arena. 501 King St. We focus on improving communication skills in a friendly, supportive atmosphere. Your first three meetings are free. Call 289 696-3167 or visit welland. toastmastersclubs.org.

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the first Tuesday of the month, 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Welland Community Wellness Complex. and second Wednesday of the month, same time, at Fover Richelieu, For information, call 905-687-3914

PASTA NIGHT

at St. Alexander parish the first Thursday of every month, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Cost; \$10 adults; \$5 children aged four to 12 (free for three and under), All you can eat. Takeout is \$9. Penne, meatballs, sausage, garlic bread, salad; beer and wine also available. All walcome

NIAGARA BONSAI SOCIETY

meets on the third Sunday of each month, 1:30 p.m. at St. Mark's Church, 41 Byron St. (across from Simcoe Park), Niagara-on-the-Lake, All are welcome. For further information contact niagarabonsai@gmail.com.

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS needed by Community Support Services of Niagara, within and

Pelham Public Library has been expanded to include all kinds of outside the region. Volunteers crafts. Bring your yarn, needles, are reimbursed mileage and hooks: scrapbooking, stamping hours are flexible (between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday to Friday), Call Laura Dumas at 905-788-3181 ext. 27 or e-mail Idumas@cssn.ca for more program details. You can also visit www.cssn.ca.

SCRAPPY DROP IN

Work on your latest cardmaking, stamping papercraft or scrapbooking project. A swap table will be set out each Monday at Pelham Public Library from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30, Cost \$2.

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INFERTILITY SUPPORT Niagara meetings are held the first Wednesday of each

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NIAGARA REGIONAL LITERACY

Council assists adults in improving their reading. writing, grammar, math, spelling and computer skills and provides GED preparation and readiness for work programs. Our literacy and

essential skills programs are free of charge and can be done through one-on-one tutoring or small group classes. Located at 3 Great Western St., attached to the St. Catharines Via train station. Call Pat at 905-687-8299 for

more information. WELLAND RIVER KEEPERS meets the third Tuesday

of every month at Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority office, 250 Thorold Rd. W., Welland, third floor, 7 p.m. More info, 905-735-

DROP-IN BRIDGE

Wednesday at Pelham library. 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Come alone or with a friend, Refreshments. Call ahead for the schedule at 905-892-6443. Cost \$1.



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THURSDAY JUNE 12, 2014

LIVE **Election** Coverage







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■ VENTURE

Businessmen to revive former Coast Guard ship

OMI Apency Niagara

The proud owner of a decommissioned Canadian Coast Guard vessel can hardly believe his luck.

"I feel great we made it back alive," laughed Nino Donatelli, soon after arriving Friday afternoon at Port Dalhousie Pier Marina - a facility he also owns, "We had absolutely no issues,

the weather was nice." He took 17 hours to sail back from Trenton with a crew to pick up the boat, which he says was originally worth \$4 million, Developer Donatelli and Ralph Terrio are business partners in the ship venture whose outcome is not yet clear.

> A PLACE TO LIVE, WORK

AND PLAY

The former mid-shore patrol vessel Isle Rouge was purchased through government auction.

Donatelli and Terrio are considering using it as a tour boat for perhaps 50-60 people and note a refitting and a raft of permits would be needed

If it sees that new life, it could tour areas around Niagara or Toronto and be in service by next summer.

Donatelli said the idea was sparked in part by the numbers phoning his Port Dalhousie marina looking for

"People are calling us all the time saving how do we get out into the water without renting or buying a boat, so there's obviously a demand." he said. buy it and decide what to do with it ... we're not sure if we're going to use it ourselves, or as a (tour) service." Donatelli said.

ing a fortune.

This is the perfect size to move people around without it cost-

tape needed, and if we can get through it, we'll use it to move people around." Terrio said "it was interesting to buy this.

"I do think tours would be nice ... another idea is if we

going to sail it down to Nova Scotia and bring it down to Cape Breton," Terrio said.
"We'll see."

> don fraser@sunmedia.ca Twitter: don standard

> > 3pm



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Saturday at the 13th annual Welland Dragon Boat Festival. The daylong event hosted by Welland Heritage Council and Multicultural Centre and the Rotary Club of Welland words most teams lived by

drew hundreds of people to the Welland International Flatwater Centre to participate or watch as hoats parted the water

with speed. Twenty-seven teams each with 20 paddlers, a drummer and a steersperson - took to the water to hattle it

out for the first-place title. Welland Taekwondo has had a team in the running each year

for nearly a decade. "This event builds teamwork," said cluh owner and chief instructor KyoungHee

Without everyone's co-operation the hoat would never reach the finish line, he said as he prepared for the group's next race

"Once you're together on the hoat, you feel like a warrior. Like you're going to comhat." The entire team remains

quiet while approaching the starting line, but as soon as the gunshot signals the race is underway the yelling begins and adrenaline kicks in, he "Everyone goes crazy. You

can feel the connection." Before paddlers can even get

MARYANINE FIRTH / STAFF PHOTO Teams race to the finish line Saturday during the 13th annual Welland Dragon Boat Festival at the Welland International Flatwater Centre. While paddlers awaited their

back to shore, they're already questioning when the next race will begin. Nam said.

"It's like a drug, a very good

next turn to claim victory, they browsed retail and food vendors or rested under tents set up west of the waterway. "We've received a lot of pos-

families. It's a good honding itive responses from teams emerience" about the new facility," said Vic Kerschl, who chaired the event Welland Recreational Canal Corp. board, called the festival on behalf of Rotary. a "great opportunity" to show-

"The setup is wonderful this ear and it has heen a heautiful day," added event organizer

lanet Madume, of the multicultural centre. With the popularity of the new facility. Madume is honeful next year's festival will draw an additional 10 teams from

in Welland July 4 to 6. Maryanne.firth@sunmedia.ca

Boat Championships to he held Twitter: @mfirthTribune

and individuals use the dragon

boat races as a chance to come

together and have some fun.

"This event is really about

Kerschl, who also sits on the

case the venue to out-of-town

lead-in to the National Dragon

The event, he said, is a good

she said.

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■ PAGE 15





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A fatal crash behind enemy lines

Candace

heads

OMI Agency Niagara

As an 11-year-old, he probably paused on his way to Steele Street School once or twice to admire a Packard or Nash automobile passing by, hoping one day he would find himself behind the wheel. A few years later, the mind of a teenaged Wilfred Joseph Mahagan likely would have shifted gears to girls after finding himself roaming the halls of Port

Colborne High School. What is for certain is that by the time he was in his early 20s, his thoughts had turned to survival, flying low to the ground piloting a single-seat bomber in

search of enemy tanks and trains. He was shot down by flak behind enemy lines on June 7, 1944 - the day after Allied forces stormed the beaches of Normandy in northern France.

Records show his plane exploded as it hit the ground. His hopes and dreams ended at that

moment "Short life, Twenty-one," Dennis Paris's thoughts seem to drift

off after his remark The Welland retiree has made it his mission in recent years to learn more about the young, lanky man he stumbled upon while poring over old photos of his father Frank Paris Jr. after his death

His research has included hours spent scouring the Internet with his wife, Candace, and making contact with the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum in Hamilton and other sources

Among the old photos of his father and the young pilot, both pictured in uniform and as regular neighbourhood chums, was a letter Mahagan wrote while training for the Royal Canadian Air Force.

On the small Air Forces stationery. he wrote - as a young man would about his hometown, saving nothing about where he was stationed while still in Canada. He wrote about visiting Frank Paris Sr. in hospital, and sitting down at a home to eat cake — but mostly frosting. Dennis's dad, who served as a plane

mechanic during the war because a blood pressure issue prevented him from flying, and Mahagan attended Steele Street School and Port Colborne High School together.

Mahagan grew up in the house of William and Eileen Mahagan at 164 Elm St., near Ash St. His death certificate shows he was adopted, and that his given name was Joseph Wilfred Yurch

"We haven't found any information to

Dennis says when he has driven by the house, he has thought about knocking at the front door to share the tale of the young pilot who would not return home A bedroom in the home was likely kept

tidy by the pilot's mom as she awaited his return seven decades ago. Mahagan received his wings at Camp Borden. A newspaper announcement

that ran with his photo said he was ranked fourth in his class. Best guess is that this was just months before it would be reported he had been killed in com-

His BCAF service number was I/11280 He flew with 440 Squadron

When Mahagan took flak in France, he was flying a 2,100-horsepower Hawker Typhoon MN307, a British Royal Air Force fighter-bomber used for ground support, affectionately called a Tiffy. It was armed with cannons and either bombs or rockets, armour-piercing war-

The three-bladed propeller plane on the day he died would have had thick black and white stripes painted across the top and bottom of wings and tail section — referred to often as Invasion Stripes, painted on Allied forces planes for the huge D-Day mission to avoid friendly fire casualties.

Flying deep in German-occupied territory the day after the Allies' successful siege of Juno, Omaha and other beaches in Normandy, Mahagan met his fate. The flight lieutenant is buried in a tiny

cemetery in Noyers-Bocage in Calvados, France, He lies in front of one other Allied soldier, a young British man.

The Parises visited France last September to learn more about the hometown of Dennis's grandfather and to tour Second World War cemeteries. But the visit to

them was mostly to find the resting place of the young pilot. "All the D-Day beaches stuff was kind of secondary to finding that gravesite and

paying our respects," Dennis says. And indeed, he and his wife found Wilfred Joseph Mahagan.

"It was amazing, after all the research, that there we are." Candace recalls of the experience.

The husband and wife left a Canadian flag at his grave. And they left a business card, topped with a maple leaf, that contained their contact information. They have since made contact with a couple who live near the cemetery.

See MAHAGAN on Page 17

MAHAGAN



Wilfred Joseph Mahagan, a Canadian flight lieutenant from Port Colborne who was shot down behind enemy lines in France and killed on June 7, 1944, at the age of 21.

Shot down behind enemy lines

From Page 1

Retired Prench couple Jacques and Mauricette Marie took it upon themselves to be caretakers of Mahagan's grave, which is framed by a deconative concrete curb. They wash his headstone and keep it maintained with fresh flowers. A small rose bush is also planted there.

In an e-mall, they wrote in French that they have been tending to the grave and its neighbouring one for the past 10 years. Translated to English, Jacques writes:

writes:
"They were poorly maintained and we

felt ashamed.

"Born in 1942 we are a generation who cannot forget these events and it is just simply out of respect and recognition. It seems

a minimum.

"We are a retired couple who live 30 metres from the cemetery Noyers-Bocage.

I personally am also a veteran of the war in Algeria and maybe this explains our behaviour."

jour."

Just this past week, and following exchanges with the Parises, the Maries placed a large black-and-white photo of Mahagan in front of his headstone, framed

Little is known today of Wilfred Joseph Mahagan, but it is clear the Canadian, the Port Colborne youth, will not be forgotten for his role in liberating Europe. In 2011, Dennis had a memorial pub-

with a powder blue border.

lished in *The Welland Tribune* for a special Remembrance Day section. It read: "Through family photos, military records and one special letter, I feel I have known this brave young man."

> greg.furminger@sunmedia.ca Twitter:@GregAtTheTrib



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PenFinancial Credit Union marketing and communications specialist Josh Juhlke and marketing manager Jody Vizza are ready to hide an envelope filled of money somewhere in Niagara Friday as part of the financial institutions #CareCash

Credit union hiding cash all around Niagara

OMI Agency Niagara The green ribbon marks the spot.

You won't need a map to find this treas ure, but you will want to put on your thinking cap and keep your eyes peeled to find up to \$500 hidden in Niagara each week Through its recently launched #CareCash initiative, PenFinancial Credit Union will be hiding an envelope filled with cash some-

where in the region every Friday, starting At 6 a.m., staff will begin sharing clues to the secret location through the organiza-

tion's Twitter and Facebook accounts, offering riddles and pictures to guide curious participants to the prize. The idea was born after PenFinancial

marketing manager Jody Vizza caught a TV news segment about an anonymous donor hiding cash at random locations in San Francisco

It inspired her to take action. "I came to work all fired up. I said 'We need to do this in Niagara," she said. Work began immediately, and after only a few days of planning the #CareCash concept

was ready to roll. What makes the Niagara-based initiative unique is that not only does the finder get to keep the money, but the credit union will match the funds found and donate it to

a local charity of the winner's choosing. The prize amount will also vary each week. The envelope will contain a minimum of \$50 and \$1 will be added throughevery retweet PenFinancial's #CareCash posts receive. As of Thursday afternoon, the total for this week's prize sat at \$130. A green ribbon will sit near each hiding

spot to tell searchers they're on the right track Once the money is found, its new owner

is asked to take a picture with the cash and post it to PenFinancial's Twitter or Facebook accounts using the hashtag #CareCash. They're asked to include where the prize was found and the charity they'd like to see receive the donation.

As soon as the money is found, the cash total resets to \$50 with retweets needed to

"It's about raising awareness, creating a sense of philanthropy," Vizza said of the ini-

"Nlagara is a caring community and this

is a way for (its residents) to express that." The initiative is a chance to bring to light charitable organizations working hard for Niagara and to give a handful of lucky residents a chance to give back to those groups.

said marketing and communications spe-"If we can be the facilitator between charities, volunteer opportunities and support.

that's great." There's no telling how long the initiative

will continue. Vizza said. "Until we run out of Niagara locations or

until we run out of money," she said with a laugh



Chandler Riggs of The Walking Dead signs a poster Sunday during the fourth annual Niagara Falls Comic Con. As the show gets bigger, so do the complaints.

As Comic Con grows, so do the complaints

t's only fitting this year's Niagara Falls Comic Con had a star from Growing Pains signing autographs. The more this show grows, the more pain it seems to cause people.

At least that was the reaction gathered from social media Saturday.
Lineups were too long. Autographs too expensive. Parking was a ripoff. Everything was disorganized. Gouging. confusion. You would think no one had fun at all.

nun at all.

"Waste of money this year," someone
wrote on the Con's Facebook page.

"Niagara Falls Coninc Con has turned
into a ripoff," someone chimed in later.

A woman added she "didn't have a good
experience, will not be returning to
NFCC."

This was the glowing praise I read

before attending Sunday, along with several other complaints. Long lineup, to get in Saturday had people fuming, with some saying they simply turned around and went home. Bullet News was denied press credentials, prompting the reporter to write a scathing column

What's going on, I wondered?
Has our feel-good success story of a
Comic Con turned to the dark side? Has
it already gone sour?

I sauntered up Sunday and the lineup was long but flowing. People were smiling. Kids and their parents were in costume — little dude in the Han Solo outfit you rocked. Whatever bad vibes Saturday created were gone. It was a typical Comic Con.

See COMIC CON on Page 20

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Which may be the problem for some people. Comic Cons are not a casual attraction - they require work and planning and patience. This isn't a Clifton Hill wax museum. This is a massive pop culture smorgasbord you will spend a lot of time and money at. They don't come around often. That's what makes them

In just four years, the Niagara Falls Comic Con has become one of the biggest events in the city. The three square kilometres around the Scotlabank Convention Centre were buzzing all weekend. Crowds at every corner waiting to cross. Traffic much heavier than normal. Packed parking lots, busy restaurants, congested sidewalks. This is what a Comic Con brings to the city. San Diego's annual Comic Con dominates the downtown for a solid week. Fan Expo in Toronto is likewise a huge attraction.

Niagara Falls Comic Con is not at that level, but it's bigger than anyone expected after four years. This year's show snagged William Shatner, who doesn't do just any convention.

And if organizer Chris Dabrowski gets who he wants for next year, expect even bigger lineups. The show has amazingly outgrown the Scotiabank Convention Centre already — it can't grow any bigger without finding another venue.

Here's the other thing about the Comic Con: Organizers don't set the price for autographs, the celebrities do. Organizers don't set the price for

Organizers weren't responsible for the lines to get in Saturday morning, security was. These hiccups are part of every Comic Con. If you want chaos, try getting into a hall at the San Diego Con when there's a major celebrity speaking. And as packed as Saturday was at the Falls, it was still nothing compared to the sardine-like misery of Fan Expo, when you could literally spend minutes not

Surviving a Comic Con is part of the fun. The meal afterwards. The stuff you scored. The photos you took, Even the annoying stuff becomes another story to tell after.

On Sunday, I went to take a photo of Chandler Riggs, who plays Carl on The Walking Dead. He was here two years ago and couldn't be more pleasant and accessible. This time? After two years of The Walking Dead becoming the biggest thing on TV, he suddenly had muscle

guarding the table preventing anyone from taking photos, including the media. "No pictures," the dude barked. "He's

I almost doubled over. The kid who stars on the show where zombies are impaled, beheaded and disemboweled every week can't have his photo taken ... because he's a kid?

See you crazy people again next year.

That's rich, And that's Comic Con. iohn law@sunmedia ca

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MUNICIPAL FINANCE

Pelham council costs \$124.400

ODEC FROMINGED Tribune Staff

Pelham taxpayers shelled out more than \$124,000 for the services of their mayor and council-

lors last year. Mayor Dave Augustyn was paid a salary of \$31,155.66 plus a \$2,400 car allowance and was reimbursed \$1,962.66 for attending the Association of Municipal-

ities of Ontario conference at the Ottawa Convention Centre. Total cost for the mayor:

The figures were presented in a report to councillors Monday detailing remuneration for 2013. Councillors Gary Accursi and

Catherine King (Ward 2), Richard Rybiak (Ward 1) and Peter Papp and John Durley (Ward 3) were each paid salaries of \$14,288.73. For attending the AMO con-

ference, Durley was reimbursed \$2,018.48 and Papp \$1,699.12. The conference costs include a \$656.35 registration fee. Mileage, expenses and accommodations were also claimed by councillors

attending the conference. Larry Clark, who resigned as

councillor for Ward 1, was paid \$12,510,49 in 2013 while his replacement, James Lane, was paid \$1,231.93 to conclude the

The total cost of council in 2013 was \$124,422.01, of which \$116.341.75 was regular pay.

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AARON BOGGIO R.Ph.B.Sc.PHM

Pharmacists

DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

Unfortunately mixing alcohol with certain types of prescription medications can be dangerous. Alcohol can increase the risk of severe CNS depression when taken with opioids, benzodiazenines and barbituates. Alcohol can also affect drug metabolism (breakdown to active components), or the absorption of some drugs. Chronic alcohol intake can also cause problems with certain medications because of the effect it has on the liver and specific drug metabolizing enzymes. Chronic alcohol use increases acetaminophen (TYLENOL) metabolism increasing its

conversion to metabolites toxic to the liver. It is always best not to exceed four grams of acetaminophen a day, especially if you are a heavy or binge drinker because of the damage it can due to your liver. Chronic alcohol use along with NSAIDS (Ibuprofen) or aspirin can increase the risk of GI

bleeds. However, an occasional drink with NSAID use is not likely an issue. If you are a patient on warfarin alcohol can inhibit warfarin metabolism and increase your

INR. If you change your usual alcohol intake you should have your INR checked. Certain antibiotics, and in particular metronidazole, has the potential when mixed with alcohol to make people quite iii. When taken to together a patient may experience low blood

pressure, shortness of breath, facial flushing, and nausea Diabetic patients taking hypophycemics such as GLYBURIDE or insulin are at risk of severe hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) when they drink alcohol. These patients should limit

alcohol to an occasional single drink. Any patient on medication for sleeping should be careful of alcohol consumption

because of the additive affects of drowsiness and respiratory depression. Patients have been known to aspirate their own vomit and die from intoxication. This could be more likely to happen if a person mixes alcohol with their sleep medication.

This same problem could exist when patients mix alcohol and opiates

It is always wise to consult your pharmacist or physician if you receive a new prescription and intend to have a few alcoholic beverages. Also please notify your physician or pharmacist if you are a chronic drinker. Even if you are not planning to drink while taking your prescription previous liver damage could affect how well you metabolize your medication. This could result in too high, or too low a dose for you.

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■ WELLAND RECREATIONAL CANAL

No reconsideration for go quietly policy

QMI Agency Niagara A discussion about Welland's "go quietly policy" banning motorboats on the recreational

canal was anything but quiet at A motion introduced by Ward

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4 Coun, Tony DiMarco asking the Welland Recreational Canal Corp. (WRCC) to reconsider the 2005 bylaw was ultimately defeated with an 8-5 vote, but not before sparking a heated debate about the limited use of the water-

way.
"There are many times I've gone by the canal on Sunday afternoon ... and there's no one out there or maybe one rower," DiMarco said, adding he's heard

use of the waterway. Ward 2 Coun. David McLeod, a WRCC board member, successfully amended DiMarco's motion changing the words "expanding the usage" to "allowing motorboats," arguing that it better reflected the motion's intent.

dents about the limited

"Having motorboats on the canal is akin to allowing band practice in the library," McLeod

While DiMarco sugpetitors.

"The north end is not underutilized," Sharpe said. adding motorboats would interfere "with everything else that is currently located in the canal." complaints from resi-

As the mayor went on to discuss the expanding activities on the waterway, he was interrupted by Ward 1 Coun. Mary Ann Grimaldi on a "point of order" complaining that Sharpe was off topic. Sharpe ruled Grimaldi

out of order. "I do resent being interrupted on a point of order which is clearly not in order," he said. At that moment, Ward

gested allowing the use of motorboats at the north end of the waterway, Mayor Barry Sharpe pointed out that the area is currently being used by openwater swimmers and for training triathlon com-

said. "It doesn't mix."

vou cannot raise a point of order," Sharpe told Campion. Why not?" Campion replied, questioning whether the mayor should be ruling on a point of order regarding

2 Coun. Frank Cam-

pion interrupted Sharpe

again "on a point of

order" leading to shout-

Just stop speaking,

ing between them.

a statement made by the "I've ruled on the

point of order," Sharpe replied. "I do not see it as a valid point of order and once that happens councillors have the opportunity to challenge the chair's ruling." "I challenge you for that ruling," Grimaldi told him

Her challenge was seconded by Ward 5 Coun. Rocky Letourneau, but the majority of council sided with the mayor.

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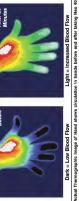
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